

Claims

What is claimed is:

- 1 1. A method for performing a bypass procedure in a digestive system
2 comprising
3 isolating an upper stomach portion of the stomach of a patient;
4 introducing an anvil adapted for use with the anastomosis instrument through a
5 side region of the upper stomach portion;
6 resecting the bowel to define a resected bowel portion; and
7 connecting the resected bowel portion and the upper stomach portion with a
8 circular anastomosis instrument.
- 1 2. The method of claim 1, wherein isolating an upper stomach portion is conducted
2 by utilizing a linear stapler, and wherein the upper stomach portion is cut such that a
3 protrusion is formed on a side region of said upper stomach portion.
- 1 3. The method of claim 1, wherein introducing and anvil comprises the insertion of a
2 surgical instrument through an opening in a bottom region of said upper stomach portion,
3 wherein said flexible body portion has a tip adapted to releasably attach said anvil, and
4 wherein said flexible body portion is capable of being roticulated.
- 1 4. The method of claim 3, wherein said anvil is attached to said tip and then carried
2 through the upper stomach portion and positioned to rest in said opening.
- 1 5. The method of claim 4, wherein said connecting step comprises juxtaposing said
2 bowel portion to said bottom region of said upper stomach portion by actuating a circular
3 anastomosis stapler instrument, wherein said anvil is passed through said bottom region

4 of said upper stomach portion and said bowel portion during said actuating of said
5 circular anastomosis stapler instrument, thereby creating an anastomosis.

1 6. The method of claim 4 wherein said protrusion on said side region of said upper
2 stomach portion is excised and sealed after said anvil is carried through said upper
3 stomach portion.

1 7. A surgical instrument designed for manipulation of a surgical component
2 comprising a cylindrical body portion comprising a proximal end and a distal end;
3 a flexible body portion extending from distal end, said flexible body portion being
4 designed to rotate and articulate and said flexible body portion comprising a tip adapted
5 for releasably attaching said surgical component; and a handle assembly attached to or
6 integral with said proximal end.

1 8. The surgical instrument of claim 7, wherein said handle assembly comprises an
2 actuator whereby the moving of said actuator controls the articulating movement of said
3 flexible body portion.

1 9. The surgical instrument of claim 7, wherein said handle assembly comprises an
2 adjusting knob that controls the rotating movement of the flexible body portion.

1 10. The surgical instrument of claim 7, wherein said handle assembly comprises a
2 pivotal handle lever that controls the release of said surgical component.

1 11. The surgical instrument of claim 7, wherein said surgical component is an anvil of
2 a circular anastomosis stapler.